



WEBINAR

“How the Coronavirus Pandemic Affects
Conflict Dynamics and Mediation:
New Challenges to Peace and Security”



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PANEL SPEAKERS



Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, Co-Chair of the Friends of Mediation Groups in the UN, OSCE, and OIC



Pekka Haavisto

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Co-Chair of the Friends of Mediation Groups in the UN and OSCE



Ignazio Cassis

Federal Councillor, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Co-Chair of the Friends of Mediation Groups in the OSCE



Rosemary DiCarlo

Under Secretary-General, UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs



Smail Chergui

African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security

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International Peace Institute, President



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Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey Mr. Çavuşoğlu outlined Turkey's efforts, in cooperation with various partners, in the sphere of mediation and underlined the additional difficulties imposed by pandemic conditions in finding peaceful solutions for ongoing conflicts. Mr. Çavuşoğlu stated that the pandemic conditions have inflicted huge impact on peacekeeping operations and mediation attempts. Referring to the latest worrying developments in various conflict zones and rampant problems of far right extremism and ever-increasing number of refugees, Mr. Çavuşoğlu expressed the need for focusing on peaceful resolution of conflicts with special emphasis on the need to address plight of certain vulnerable groups. Mr. Çavuşoğlu underlined the importance of uninterrupted flow of humanitarian aid, and stressed the need for reform in UN Security Council and UN Agencies. Underscoring the global character of the problems and their worldwide repercussions, Mr. Çavuşoğlu dwelled on the importance of international cooperation and multilateralism.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland Mr. Pekka Haavisto stated that the pandemic is more than a health crisis, and has far-reaching effects on ongoing conflicts and problems. He underlined the importance of multilateralism and rules-based order in tackling current problems as well as in handling the pandemic. Mr. Haavisto gave examples from various conflicts zones and expressed the possible opportunities, which might occur in the post pandemic period.

Mr. Ignazio Cassis, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, outlined the impacts of pandemic in economy and social life in Switzerland, and outlined Swiss efforts and contribution in finding peaceful solutions and strengthening stability in various conflict zones.

Ms. Rosemary Dicarlo, UN Under Secretary-General, underscored that the pandemic is more than just a health crisis and poses a serious threat to international security. Expressing the need for concentrating on mediation efforts, Ms. Dicarlo dwelled on the various destabilizing impacts inflicted by the pandemic, which complicate the ongoing conflicts. Ms. Dicarlo emphasized that more pressure must be applied on conflicting parties and digital tools can be instrumentalized in mediation efforts.

All participants expressed that the webinar held jointly by **ADF** and **IPI** was a timely and relevant initiative, and presented a good opportunity to dwell on the mediation efforts in these challenging times.

